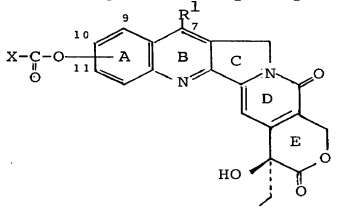
Title: NEW CAMPTOTHECIN DERIVATIVES AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

New camptothecin derivatives possessing high anti-tumor activity with slight toxicity, represented by the general formula:



(I)

wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms and X is a chlorine atom or $-NR^2R^3$ where R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group, with the proviso that when both R^2 and R^3 are the substituted or unsubstituted alkyl groups, they may be combined together with the nitrogen atom, to which they are bonded, to form a heterocyclic ring which may be interrupted with -O-, -S- and/or $>N-R^4$ in which R^4 is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group and wherein the grouping -O-CO-X is bonded to a carbon atom located in any of the 9-, 10- and 11-positions in the ring A of camptothecin, as well as an ammonium salt or an alkali metal salt thereof. These new camptothecin derivatives are prepared by reacting a 7-R^1-camptothecin derivative having a hydroxyl group in any of the 9-, 10- and 11-positions on the ring A thereof with phosgen and then reacting, if necessary, the resultant 7-R^1-camptothecin